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Recommendation for funding from other resources without a recommendation for funding from regular resources**

Colombia

Summary

The present document contains a recommendation for funding from other resources for which no recommendation for funding from regular resources is requested for the country programme of Colombia. The programme proposal submitted here is aimed at expanding or complementing an ongoing programme in the country concerned. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board approve other resources in the amount of $4,000,000, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2000 to 2001.

* E/ICEF/2000/14

** The figures provided in the present document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1999. They will be contained in the summary of recommendations for regular resources and other resources programmes (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.27)

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Basic data

(1998 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, under 18 years)	16.1
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	30
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	25
Underweight (% moderate and severe) (1995)	8
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (1994)	80
Literacy (% male/female) (1997)	91/92
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female) (1995)	90/91
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%) (1997)	59
Access to safe water (%) (1995)	90
Routine EPI vaccines financed by Government (%)	100
GNP per capita (US$)	2,470
One-year-olds fully immunized against (1998):	
tuberculosis	82 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus	70 per cent
measles	75 per cent
Poliomyelitis	72 per cent
Pregnant women immunized against tetanus	57 per cent

The situation of children and women

1. Colombia has 41.6 million inhabitants and a per capita gross domestic product of $2,470. Economic growth has averaged 4.4 per cent for the past 40 years, but fell to 2 per cent in 1998, and minus 5 per cent in 1999, when unemployment reached 21 per cent. An estimated 55 per cent of the population — 18 million people — live below the poverty line. Six and one half million of these are children.

2. Most of the goals of the World Summit for Children have been achieved in Colombia. The national infant mortality rate (IMR) is estimated at 25 per 1,000 live births, though for children in the poorest regions, the rate is 76 per 1,000 live births. Since 1997, all flour produced locally has been fortified with iron, folic acid and vitamin B. In 1998, Colombia was certified as an iodine deficiency disorder-free country. The maternal mortality rate is 80 per 100,000 live births, although there are regions where it reaches a rate of 130 per 100,000.

3. In spite of these gains, serious efforts are still required in certain areas. An estimated 4.5 million Colombian children have not been registered, and approximately 148 cases of intra-family violence per 1,000 people currently occur. From 1990 to 1998, 30,000 people annually died violent deaths. Some 1.7 million children between 12 and 17 work, one quarter of them in what are considered risky occupations.

Seventy per cent of working children do not attend school.

4. An area of particular impact on children is the ongoing insecurity and armed conflict. A report published in February 1999 by "Consulta para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento" (CODHES), a UNICEF-supported human rights- based non-governmental organization (NGO), indicates that forced displacements are increasing every year and affected 356,000 people in 1999. Seventy per cent of those affected are children and women.

5. A complex situation exists in the south of the country, resulting from problems of narcotics cultivation and trafficking, and the Government's efforts to eradicate these problems, as well as the impact of insecurity and conflict. Thousands of Colombian families are now involved in coca production, which has increased, despite efforts to abolish it. An estimated 97,000 hectares were under cultivation in 1998. Children and adolescents are often attracted to production by potential economic rewards. The first study conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman on the phenomenon of child leaf-strippers in 15 municipalities of Putumayo showed that 11,000 children between the ages of 5 and 18 work stripping coca leaves in this department alone. These children are exposed in their work to health problems, violence, sexual abuse, abandonment, segregation, addiction and recruitment into bands of traffickers or paramilitary groups. They are also excluded from health, education and other social benefits.

Programme cooperation, 2000-2001

6. The approved short-duration country programme for 2000-2001 (E/ICEF/1999/P/L.23) aims to position children's rights as a main concern of the State and civil society. UNICEF cooperation has contributed to the formulation of policies and programmes that promote attention to children, youths and women, as well as accomplishment of World Summit goals, as expressed in the National Plan of Action. UNICEF has also provided strong support to the Children's Movement for Peace. The programme is divided into three closely interlinked focus areas: public policies for children and women; local development; and communication and social mobilization. The programme provides support to local-level planning, monitoring, basic service delivery, and rehabilitation of displaced and vulnerable populations. Support to public policy development aims to improve equity and reduce disparities in selected urban and marginalized areas and rural indigenous regions.

7. The country programme also includes policy mobilization for children and women and leveraging of local resources. Policy breakthroughs have been achieved in micronutrients, water and sanitation, family welfare and maternal mortality. Successful pilot projects that are ready to be replicated exist in education and child labour. Progress is also being made in harmonization of the Children's Code and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

8. A Common Country Assessment (CCA) has been prepared and a draft United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was completed in 1999. UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Migration Organization (IMO) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) have collaborated on issues related to internally displaced populations. UNICEF has worked with the United Nations Population Fund and the Pan American Health Organization on HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health and maternal mortality.

9. UNICEF is supporting basic services interventions in areas affected by coca cultivation and population displacements, including Putumayo department, where 50 per cent of coca crop cultivation in Colombia occurs. Based on this, UNICEF is now proposing a consolidation of its experiences in this department, and an extension of coverage to the neighbouring departments of Caqueta and Meta, as well as Cordoba, in the north of the country. This will be a discrete package of interventions, linked to, but distinct from, other country programming.

Justification for additional funds

10. The approved short-duration programme for 2000-2001 included an amount of $2,000,000 in other resources for each of the two years. UNICEF is now seeking approval to raise the ceiling of other resources, in response to new plans of the Government of Colombia, developed since the submission of the country programme recommendation. The "Plan Colombia", recently proposed by the Government to

support the ongoing peace process, includes a package of social interventions in zones where illegal crops are cultivated, where the presence of the State is still weak, and where the proportion of the population with unsatisfied basic needs is very high.

11. Within this framework, UNICEF has developed a new project proposal. Focus will be on Putumayo and surrounding areas in the south of the country, and Cordoba in the north. These coca production areas are jungle covered and difficult to access, leading to poor coverage of basic services for large portions of the population. The project will include strengthening of municipal management, social mobilization and the provision of basic social services in 15 municipalities that have 80 per cent of the population of these zones. The project would require $4,000,000 for the period 2000 to 2001. Several donors have already expressed interest in funding the project, particularly the United States Agency for International Development and the Canadian International Development Agency.

12. Within the framework of the approved 2000-2001 country programme objectives, and in support of the "Plan Colombia", three interrelated subprogrammes are identified, the objectives of which are to support the fulfilment of the rights of children and their families in targeted areas in the north and south of the country. The first is *emergency care* for populations affected by violence in areas of illicit crop cultivation. This first phase of the programme will support children, adolescents and families displaced because of violence and coca eradication. Activities will include psychosocial care for children affected by violence, through the training of 700 young volunteers, teachers and community/family members. They will be encouraged to use a psycho-affective care methodology, emphasizing creation of educational and play spaces for displaced children and integral care for children affected by the armed conflict. This will include provisional health care, complementary feeding for the undernourished, safe drinking water and environmental sanitation, and short-term subsidies for families abandoning their work with illicit crops, which will lead to income-generating activities.

13. The second area involves longer-term *alternative social development*, which will link the short-term assistance described above with longer-term strategies for rehabilitation and development. Work in this area will centre on training of staff in institutions to analyse the situation of children and prepare local development action plans, emphasizing care for families displaced by violence. Creation of care units for displaced families will be supported; and materials to sensitize governing bodies and communities to support and comply with the rights of displaced families and those involved in illicit crops will be prepared. Primary health care activities will also be supported, emphasizing maternal and child care programmes; training in sanitation and hygiene; construction or rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems with appropriate, low-cost technologies; culturally appropriate training techniques; and strengthening of municipal management of social services.

14. The third area, *social mobilization and advocacy*, will include three main components, all aimed to develop an awareness of rights and peace in targeted communities. These interventions are similar to ongoing programming in social mobilization and rights awareness. "Children's voices for peace and coexistence" will work to strengthen the peace movement, increasing its membership in project areas. "Children as a peace zone" will work to establish "neutral zones" in schools, health centres and temporary shelters for displaced persons, using the "Hand for Peace" educational campaign to strengthen rights and generate a culture of peace in schools, parks and health centres. The "Culture of peace — education on values and conflict resolution" subproject will support information systems on human rights violations and the production of maps of perceived areas of danger; educational materials on values, principles, peace and coexistence; and a training manual for educators on pedagogical processes for developing a culture of peace.

15. Implementation of this project will be carried out in partnership with several locally based organizations, including the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts. UNICEF has already established a solid relationship with the Catholic Church in Putumayo and Cordoba departments. In spite of the complexity inherent in these conflict zones, UNICEF has managed to continue its operations in conjunction with its partners, through current programming cycles, and thus anticipates that project implementation will be feasible. UNICEF will continue to work closely with UNDP, the United Nations Drug Control Programme, UNHCR, UNHCHR and IMO in interventions in these regions to meet objectives.